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COMPARISON OF PENETRATION CODES FOR
STRAIN MEASUREMENTS IN KINETIC
ENERGY PENETRATORS

TECHNICAL
REPORT

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March 1980



US ARMY ARMAMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND
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ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND

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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) A two-dimensional finite-difference Eulerian hydrocode (HELP) and a two-dimensional finite-element Lagrangian code (EPIC-2) were used to measure response characteristics of a long steel rod with a hemispherical nose impacting a rolled homogeneous armor target at 0° obliquity and at an ordnance velocity. Surface strains were computed at three positions along the steel rod and these results were compared with published experimental data wherein the measuring devices were strain gages mounted on a long rod at prescribed locations in a forward ballistic testing set up. (cont'd)		

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Computational results from both codes have shown excellent agreement with the experimental data during the elastic phase of the deformation. However with the onset of plastic deformation agreement was dependent on the failure criteria incorporated in the codes. With the inclusion of failure models in the codes very good agreement was obtained in the eroding finite element model while the finite-difference code agreement deteriorated significantly at later times.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Within the past two decades the response of materials to high velocity impact has been examined by experimental techniques employing foil resistance gages for strain measurements. Early work by Bluhm,¹ Arajs², and Lascher, Henderson, and Maynard³ employed a reverse ballistic technique wherein plates were impacted against stationary projectiles instrumented with strain gages of various types. However, this technique limited tests to low density targets and to low impact velocities. Recently G. E. Hauver⁴ developed a forward ballistic technique wherein a long rod, instrumented with several stages of strain gages, was impacted against a stationary target at velocities greater than 1000 meters per second. The measurements from tests employing the forward ballistic technique were ultimately intended to serve as a comparison with predictions from a computer code, to provide input data of material parameters for more exact computations, and to improve the simulation of the penetration process.

This paper complements the work of Mr. Hauver by taking one of his test conditions and performing a numerical simulation of the instrumented long rod impacting a hard target at an ordnance velocity.

II. NUMERICAL METHODS

The first method employed a finite element formulation in the two-dimensional Lagrangian code, EPIC-2, developed by Dr. Gordon Johnson⁵ of Honeywell. The second method used a finite difference scheme in the two-dimensional Eulerian code, HELP, developed by L. J. Hageman et al.⁶, at Systems, Science and Software.

¹ Bluhm, J. I., "Stresses in Projectiles During Penetration", Proc. Soc. Exptl. Stress Anal., Vol 13, pp. 167-181, 1956.

² Arajs, V., "An Investigation of Forces on a Projectile During Perforation of Thin Aluminum Plates", Masters Thesis, Air Force Inst. Tech., 1971

³ Lascher, F. R., Henderson, D., and Maynard, D., "Determination of Penetration Forcing Function Data for Impact Fuzes - Phase II", Technical Report AVSD-0306-75-RR, AVCO Systems Division, Wilmington, MA, 1975

⁴ Hauver, G. E., "Penetration with Instrumented Rods", Proc. 14th Meet. Soc. Eng. Science, pp. 106-109, November 1977.

⁵ Johnson, G. R., "Analysis of Elastic-Plastic Impact Involving Severe Distortions", Journal of Applied Mechanics, Vol 98, No. 3, September 1976

⁶ Hageman, L. J., Wilkins, D. E., Sedgewick, R. T. and Waddell, J. L., "HELP: A Multi-material Eulerian Program for Compressible Fluid and Elastic-Plastic Flows in Two Space Dimensions and Time", Systems, Science and Software, SSS-R-75-2654, July 1975.

The EPIC-2 code performs Elastic-Plastic Impact Computations in two dimensions for axisymmetric and plain strain problems. It also is capable of handling axisymmetric problems with spin. It is based on a Lagrangian finite element, lumped mass formulation. The equations of motion are integrated directly, rather than through the traditional stiffness matrix approach. Nonlinear material strength and compressibility effects are included to account for elastic-plastic flow and wave propagation. The code has material descriptions which include strain hardening, strain rate effects, thermal softening and failure. Mesh generators are included to produce quickly configurations such as flat plates, spheres, and rods with blunt, ogival, or conical nose shapes. Complex shapes can also be represented simply by providing an adequate assemblage of elements to represent the desired geometry. The elements are triangular in shape and are well suited to represent severe distortions generally occurring during high velocity impact.

Material failure is currently dependent on the equivalent plastic strain and the volumetric strain. The equivalent plastic strain, $\bar{\epsilon}_p$, is obtained by integrating the equivalent strain rate, $\dot{\epsilon}_p$ with respect to time during plastic flow such that

$$\bar{\epsilon}_p(t + \Delta t) = \bar{\epsilon}_p(t) + \dot{\epsilon}_p(t) \Delta t$$

where Δt is the integration time increment. The volumetric strain ϵ_V is obtained by observing the current and initial volume of the element in the following manner

$$\epsilon_V = V/V_0 - 1$$

When the failure criterion has been met for these two strains the equivalent tensile stress is set to zero, and no tensile or shear stress is allowed to develop in the failed element. The net result is that the failed element acts like a liquid inasmuch as it can develop hydrostatic compression with no shear or tensile stress. Another option is available wherein the element fails totally and all stresses and pressures are set equal to zero.

The HELP code is a multimaterial Eulerian computer program dealing with compressible fluids and elastic-plastic flows in two space dimensions and time. Although the code is basically Eulerian, free surfaces and material interfaces are located in a Lagrangian fashion throughout the computational grid. No material diffusion is permitted across these discrete interfaces.

The material model employed in HELP consists of an equation of state, a deviatoric constitutive relationship, a yield criterion and a failure criterion for each of the material packages employed in the calculation.

Material failure in HELP is governed by the failure criterion. A material is said to have failed when the material tension falls below a critical value indicated by $(\rho/\rho_0)_{\text{Min}}$. When this occurs

all the deviatoric stresses in the cell are zeroed out.

III. NORMAL IMPACT SIMULATION

The projectile-target configuration selected for the simulation is similar to that used by Mr. Hauver⁷ in the experimental phase. A schematic drawing of the experimental setup is shown in Figure 1. The projectile, an S7 steel rod, 254mm long, 8.1mm in diameter, with a hemispherical nose impacts the target at 0° obliquity at a striking velocity of 1000 m/s. The target is rolled homogenous armor, 101.6mm in diameter and 25.4mm thick. Type EP high elongation foil gages, manufactured by Micro-Measurements, Inc, were located at 20mm, 40mm, and 60mm distances from the nose of the projectile.

In the EPIC-2 code the rod portion of the projectile is configured on an axisymmetric mesh, shown in Figure 2, consisting of six columns of triangular elements while the nose is segmented into six hemispheric layers of elements. 749 nodes and 1272 elements are required to model the projectile. The target is configured to have uniform elements about the impact point and increasing in size in both radial and axial directions so that 1050 nodes and 1972 elements are needed to model the target. The strain calculations were made by computing the change in length of the surface element at the desired gage location.

In the HELP code the computational mesh contained 86 cells in the axial direction and 32 cells in the radial direction, however, the rod was represented by 8 rows of cells in the radial direction. At the region of impact the cells had an aspect ratio of 1 and increased in both directions in order to encompass the entire projectile-target configuration. The strain computations at the desired locations were computed by observing the change in adjoining massless passive Lagrangian tracer particles located just within the cylindrical surface.

IV. MATERIAL PROPERTIES

The material properties for the computations were obtained from the Solid Mechanics Branch of the Laboratory. These properties are shown in Table 1.

⁷Hauver, G. E., "Penetration with Instrumented Rods", International J. of Engng. Sci., Vol 16, pp. 871-877, 1978.

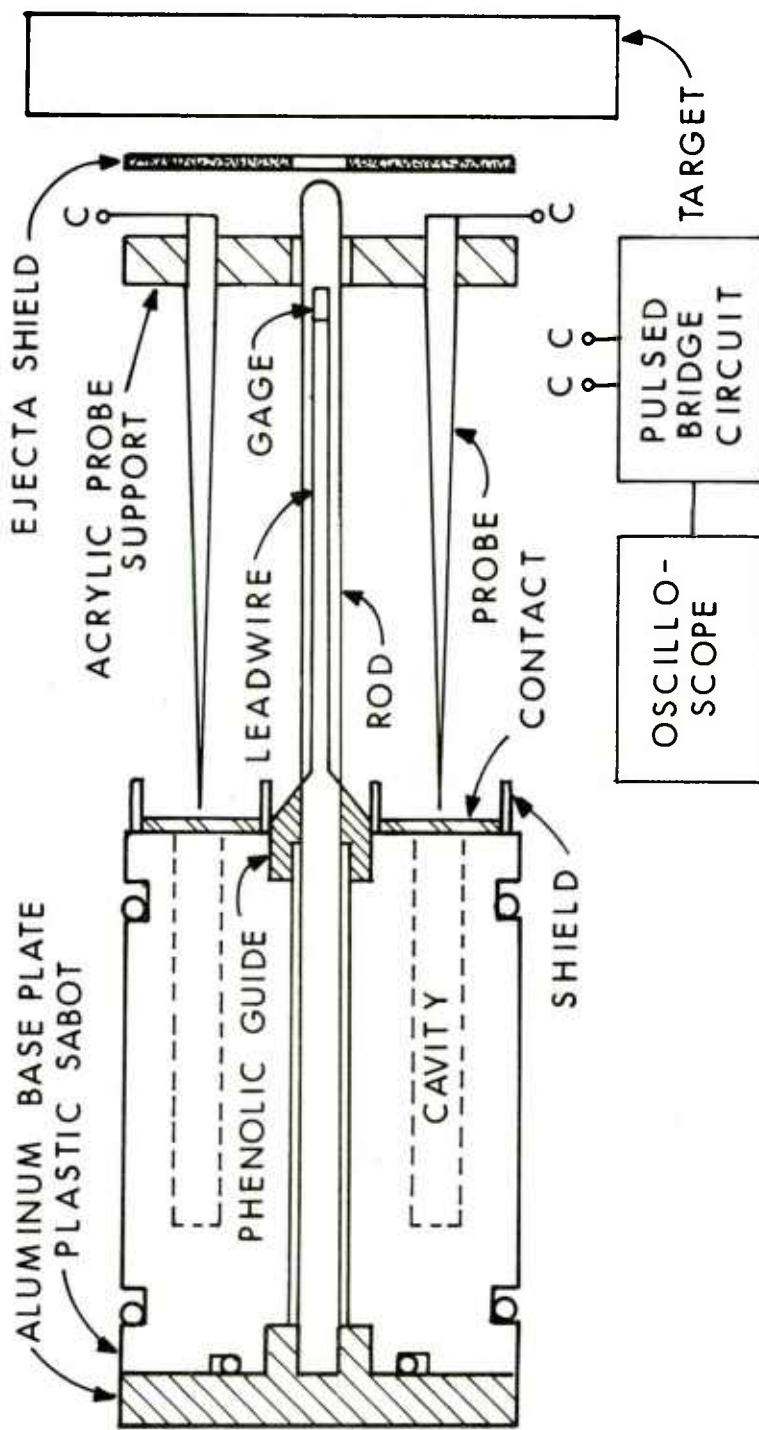


Figure 1. Experimental Arrangement of Forward Ballistic Technique for Strain Measurements

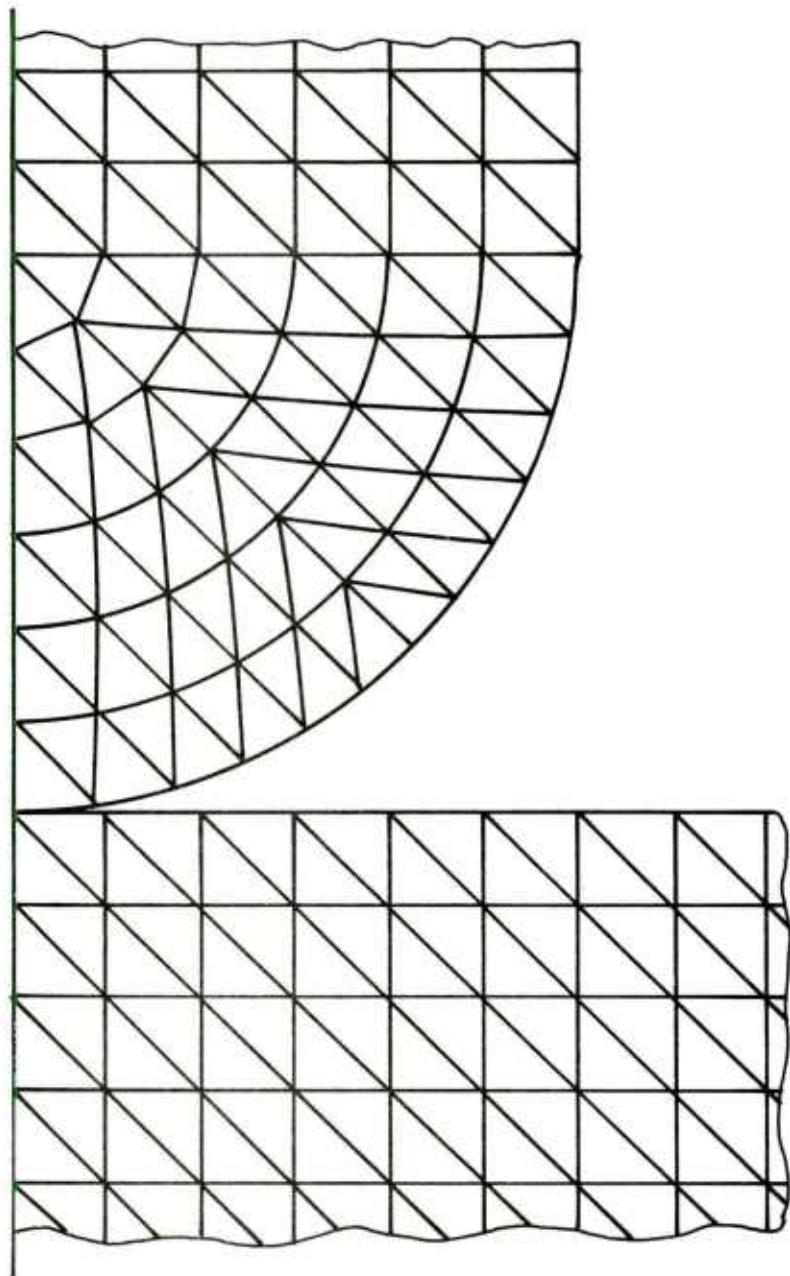


Figure 2. EPIC-2 Computational Mesh for Strain-Time Measurements

Table I. Material Properties

Material	ϵ (GPa)	ν	σ_y (GPa)	σ_u (GPa)	ρ (Mg/m ³)
S7 steel	206.8	0.3	1.44	2.68	7.8
RHA	206.8	0.3	0.96	1.14	7.8
ϵ - elastic modulus	σ_u - ultimate strength				
ν - Poisson's ratio	ρ - density				
σ_y - yield strength					

Dynamic and quasi-static tests were run to determine the elastic modulus and yield strength⁷. The results for S7 steel are shown in Figure 3. The ultimate strength was taken from data derived by Bell⁸.

In EPIC-2 the failure criterion was considered for two cases. In the first case failure was not allowed to occur in the projectile or target. For the second case only failure in the projectile was permitted in shear at a true strain of 40% and total failure at a true strain of 100%. These values for strain to failure were extrapolated from data for S7 steel obtained from Oak Ridge by Dr. E. W. Bloore⁹. The data indicated elongation at failure of 9.4 to 10.5% at a strain rate of 0.033 m/m/s and 20 to 22% at a strain rate of 280.0 m/m/s.

The failure criterion in the HELP code was based upon a minimum allowable density ratio defined as:

$$(\rho / \rho_0)_{\text{Min}} = - \frac{S}{K} + 1,$$

where K is the bulk modulus and S is the material spallation threshold. The values of the minimum density ratio for S7 steel and RHA were .972 and .986 respectively.

⁸Bell, J. F., "Theoretical and Experimental Studies of Shock Waves in Solids", Progress Report, Contract DAAD05-76-C-0722, BRL, APG, MD, May 1977

⁹Bloore, E. W., private communication.

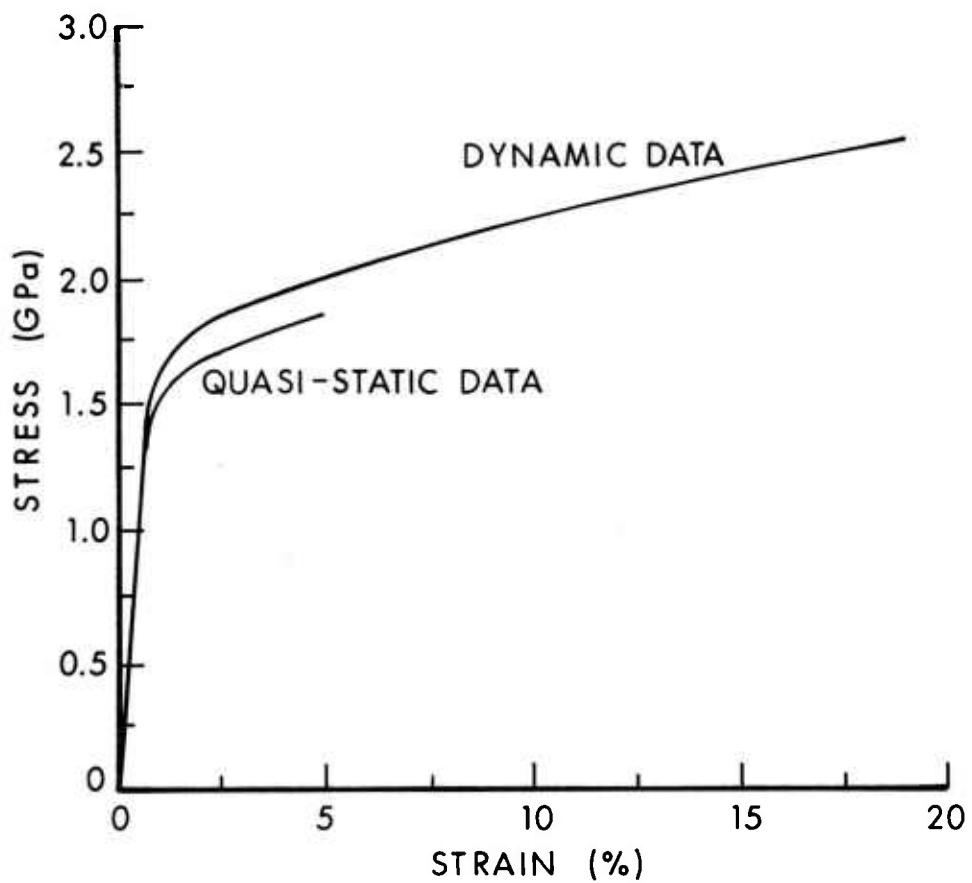


Figure 3. Dynamic and Quasi-Static Relations between Stress and Strain for S-7 Steel (UNIVAR)

V. RESULTS

The results from the computations and their comparison with the experimental values for surface strains at the 20mm position are shown in Figures 4 and 5. Figure 4 provides details of the elastic response portion of the strain-time record. Although there appears to be good agreement, the HELP calculation is greater and the EPIC calculations are less than the experimental value. However, at 8 microseconds, plastic deformation sets in and becomes the dominant feature. The strain in the EPIC-2 without failure calculation rises to a very high value while the other calculations remain at relatively low strains. The deviation becomes very dramatic, increasing rapidly to 47% strain by 20 microseconds. On the other hand the computations with penetrator failure in both HELP and EPIC-2 show good agreement until 18 microseconds. At this time the HELP code encounters difficulty in handling mixed cells and the strain deviates sharply, similar to the calculations without failure. Similar results occur at the 40 and 60mm gage positions.

The oscillation in the elastic portion of the strain-time record is due to reverberation of the tensile wave within the rod. This is demonstrated in Figure 6 which shows the computed radial velocity from EPIC-2 of a point on the surface of the projectile at the 20mm position as a function of time. On impact, two compressive stress waves are propagated. One moves up the rod, the other into the target. But at the same time, the intense stress in the rod is mitigated by tensile relief waves emanating from the lateral free surfaces of the rod. The rarefaction waves cross at the rod centerline and induce large tensile fields there. Such behavior has been previously noted by Wilkins and Guinan¹⁰ and by Mescall and Papirno¹¹ who have plotted elegant and illustrative contours of tensile stress in rods at very early times after impact. After several wave reverberations, the state of stress in the rod becomes quite complex and does not lend itself to simple representation. But this figure clearly shows the presence of tensile waves. The state of stress in the rod is two-dimensional and the smooth waveforms predicted by one-dimensional wave propagation theories should not be expected. It is worth noting that for very high-strength materials, such tensile waves can initiate fracture at the rod centerline; a phenomenon not explained by one-dimensional theories. Clearly, there is a tradeoff between high strength and ductility in long rod penetrator design.

¹⁰Wilkins, M. L., and Guinan, M. W., "Impact of Cylinders on a Rigid Boundary", Journal of Applied Physics, Vol 44, No. 3, pp. 1200-1206, March 1973.

¹¹Mescall, J., and Papirno, R., "Spallation in Cylinder-Plate Impact", Experimental Mechanics, Vol 14, No. 7, July 1974.

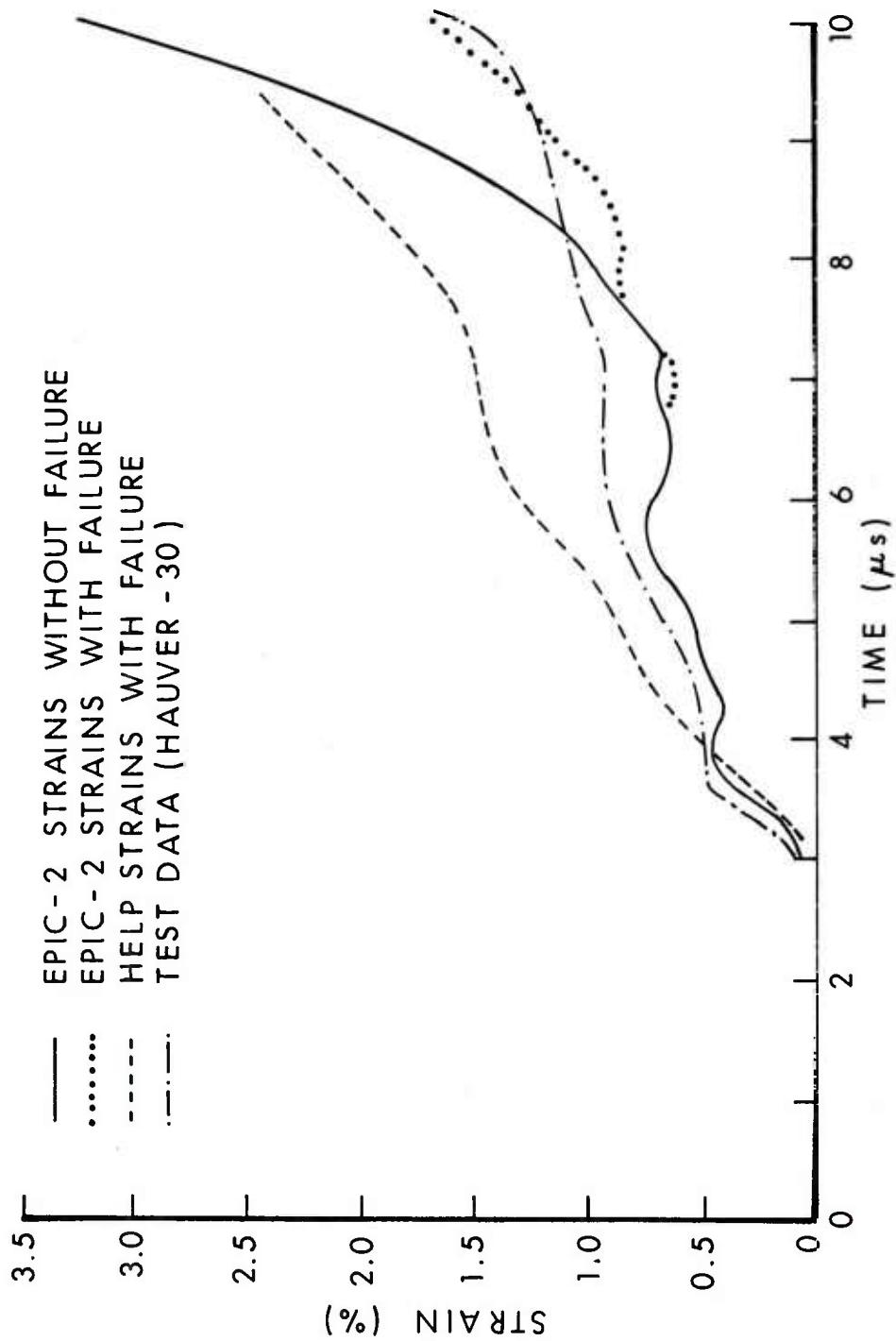


Figure 4. Compressive Strain-Time Record at 20mm Gage Position (0-10 μ s)

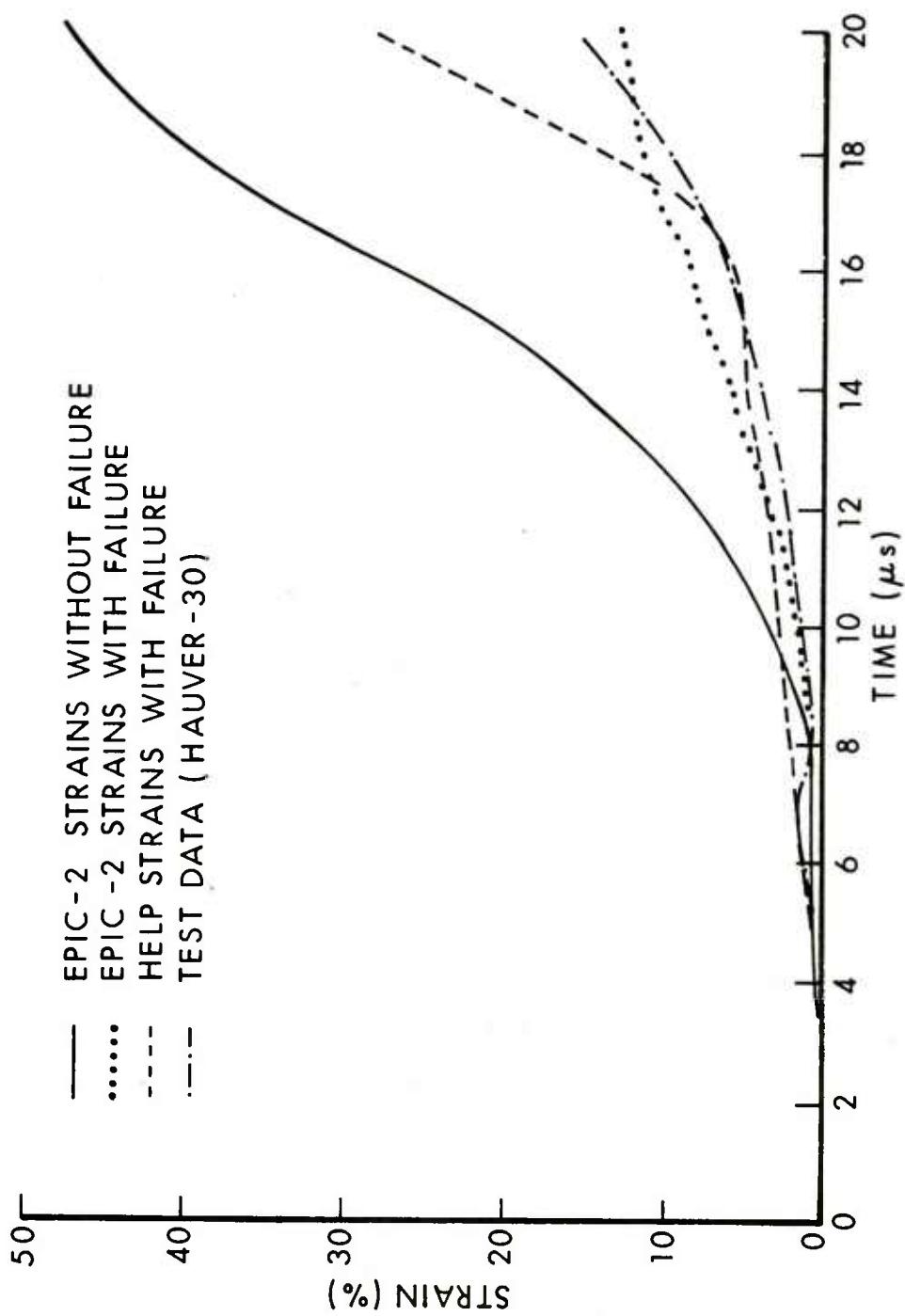


Figure 5. Compressive Strain-Time Record at 20mm Gage Position (0-20 μ s)

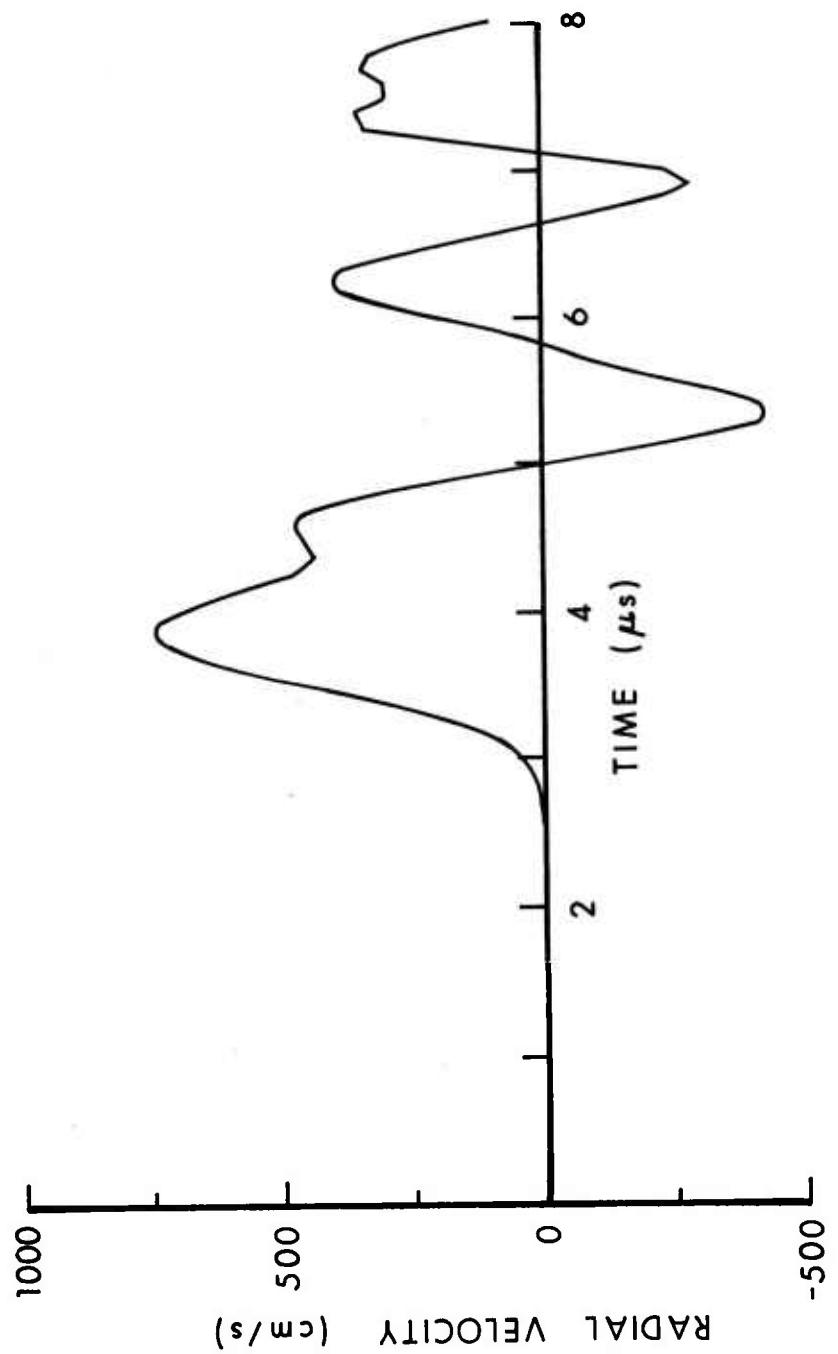


Figure 6. Surface Velocity vs Time at 20mm Gage Position

Typical deformation profiles for both EPIC-2 computations are shown in Figure 7. For the case with no failure all the elements are shown in the plot, and the usual erosion pattern is observed. However, for the case where projectile failure is allowed the elements, for which the tensile strain exceeds 100%, are ignored and are not shown in the plot. Hence the deformation profile shows only those elements still capable of carrying the load. The masses associated with the failed elements are nonetheless maintained in the computation.

EPIC-2 computations were also performed for four cases of failure condition. When only the target was allowed to fail the computed surface strains differed little from those where neither the target nor the projectile were allowed to fail. When both rod and target were allowed to fail the computed strains agreed closely with the case wherein only failure in the penetrator was permitted. Surface strains therefore are very much functions of penetrator deformation and failure modes and are little affected by details of target failure for this particular impact condition.

A typical deformation profile for the HELP computation is shown in Figure 8. Here the profile includes the failed elements and therefore introduces greater strain values than expected. It also shows significant acceleration of both materials at the projectile - target interface in a radial direction forming "ejecta" material at the interface. The absence of a smooth flow pattern is indicative of free surface tracer instability resulting in mixed cell problems and of the need for manually rezoning the projectile-target interface region.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

Numerical techniques exist for calculating the response of projectiles during the penetration and perforation of targets of finite thickness for impacts in the ordnance impact regime. The analysis of ballistic impact conditions and related phenomena can now be conducted through simulation techniques such as demonstrated by the EPIC-2 and the HELP codes.

It should be emphasized that computer codes such as those discussed here have advanced to the point where they can be used in conjunction with experimental procedures to advance the state-of-the-art in penetrator and armor design and effectiveness studies as well as armored systems vulnerability analyses. For the specific problems considered here the following conclusions can be drawn:

- a. Appropriate material failure models are essential for accurate prediction of penetrator response.

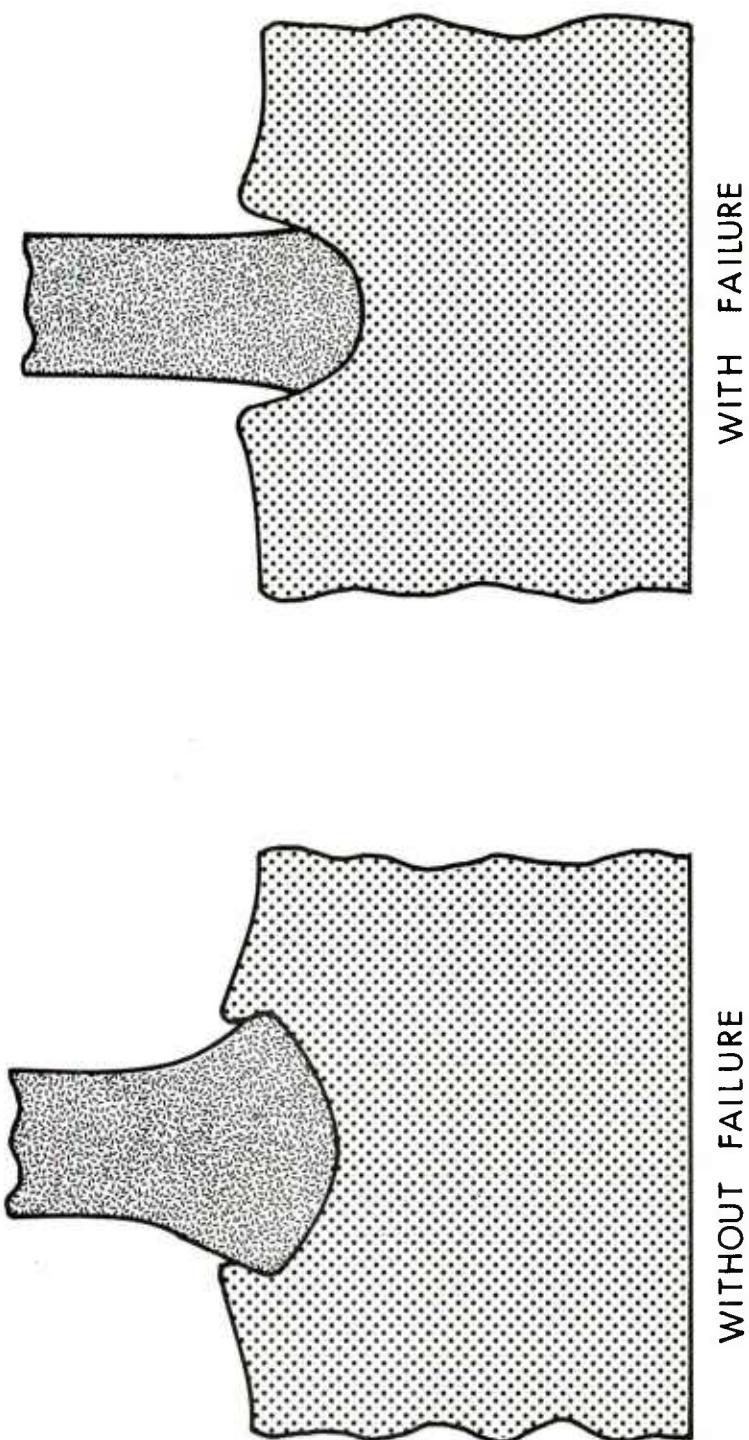


Figure 7. EPIC-2 Deformation Pattern at 15 Microseconds

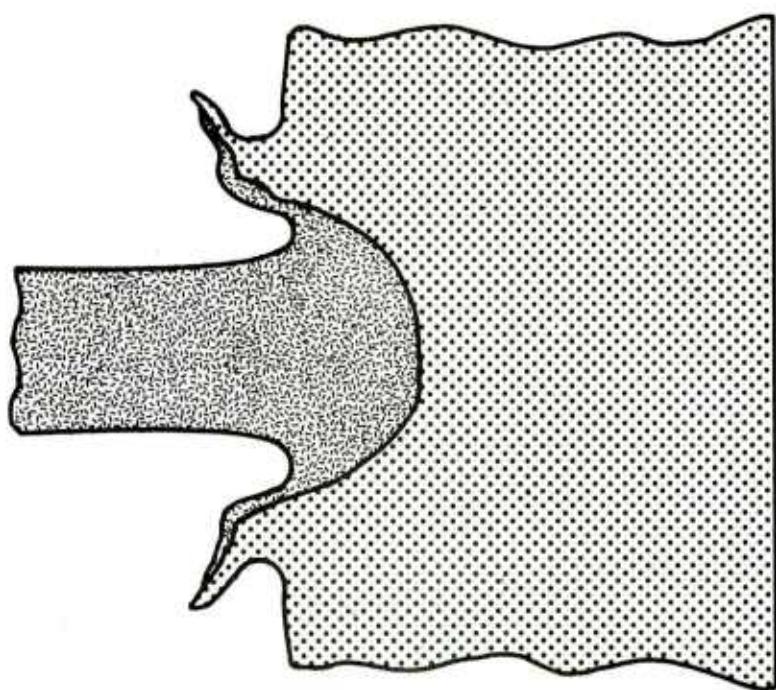


Figure 8. HELP Deformation Pattern at 20 Microseconds

b. Significant tensile stresses occur in the rod at early times after impact and are responsible for the oscillations in the elastic portion of both the experimental and computational strain-time records. It should be noted that for high strength materials with low ductility such tensile waves can cause failure along the penetrator centerline.

c. Surface strains in the penetrator are most strongly affected by failure of penetrator material at the rod-target interface and only marginally by failure of target material.

d. The Lagrangian method used in EPIC offers a better treatment for strain hardening and history dependent failure than is possible with Eulerian methods.

e. The Lagrangian calculation allows better resolution with less computer time; but because of the large amount of material distortion some elements at the interface can cause numerical instability which must be avoided by taking the affected cells out of the computational cycle.

f. The code predictions appear satisfactory during the initial elastic phase of the deformation but deteriorate significantly for the HELP code at longer time period due to severe plastic deformation of the nose and due to the limitations of plastic material modeling.

g. HELP code does not appear to be ideally suited for solving problems involving hemispherical-nosed projectiles with large length-to-diameter ratios and problems where the response is very sensitive to the failure properties of the penetrator material. However, the code may be useful for extremely high velocity impact problems where hydrostatic compression is significant.

Since very high plastic strains are encountered under ballistic impact conditions (up to 60% computed, 15% measured prior to gage failure), dynamic characterization of candidate materials for ballistic applications should be conducted at high strain rates (10^3 - 10^4 mm/mm/s) for very high strains. With the ready availability of two- and three-dimensional codes for studying penetration and perforation phenomena characterization under biaxial and triaxial loading conditions is imperative.

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